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## FRANK G. CARPENTER'S LETTER.

# FACE TO FACE WITH THE PHARAOHS

## HOW OUR MODERN EXCAVATIONS ARE UN-EARTHING THE KINGS WHO OPPRESSED THE ISRAELITES.

Old Rameses and His Queens—Travels Among the Mummies—What It Cost to Be Mummified—Some Three-Thousand-year-old Babies—"The Book of the Dead." The Origin of the Golden Calf Discovered in Sacred Cow Recently Dug up at Thebes—Ancient Jewels and How the Israelites "Spoiled the Egyptians."

(Copyright, 1919, by Frank G. Carpenter.)  
Cairo, Egypt, Sept. 21.—How would you like to own an Egyptian mummy, and that a simon pure princess, perhaps 3000 years old? I was offered one at the Gizeh museum today. The price was just \$100 in cash, and accompanying it was a certificate showing it was not made in Germany. The excavations which are now going on in the valley of the Nile are such that the museum has mummies and relics to sell. Hundreds of the ancient dead have been shipped to all parts of the world, and the ghoulish officials are now adding to their revenues by disposing of the surplus bodies of nobles who lived and ruled ages ago. In connection with the mummy offered me was a certificate giving its probable age. The lady lay in the clothes in which she was buried. She was wrapped around with linen as yellow as saffron, and her black face appeared to smile as I looked. She had been put up in spices, and it seemed to me that I could almost smell the perfume with which she was cured.

### Pickling the Pharaohs.

During my stay in the museum I heard much of the thousands of mummies which have already been found, and of those which are now being dug from the desert. A vast number have been discovered in addition to those of the Pharaohs, and the actual bodies of the greatest rulers of ancient Egypt are now on view. Many of these were so treated by the embalmers of the past that they are in excellent condition today.

Take old Rameses, the king who built Thebes, Karnak and the other great cities. He was the man who oppressed the Israelites, although not the one whom the Lord afflicted with plagues and thereby caused the exodus. This Rameses was the Alexander of Egypt, the Napoleon of the Nile valley of 3000 odd years ago. He had conquered the country about him and was rolling in wealth. He was as great in the minds of the nations of that time as Theodore Roosevelt is today, and his blood flowed as freely. He now lives here, with none too poor to do him reverence.

And still he is wonderfully preserved. His iron jaw is as firm as when he uttered his commands in his capital, the 1900-year-old city of Thebes. His enormous nose is still prominent and his white teeth have lasted these 3000

years without the use of a dentist. He has his original hair, a little faded, perhaps, and his neck shrunk to the size of my wrist, shows an Adam's apple as big as a golf ball.

Near this casket is one containing Seti I, the Pharaoh who preceded Rameses, another great warrior and conquerer, who is said to have made a canal from the Nile to the Red sea, and nearby is the mummy of Menephtah, the pharaoh who defended his land against the Israelites and would not let them go. Seti lies in his coffin with his black arms crossed and his black head cushioned on yellow grave cloth. His features are as peaceful as in life and he appears to sleep well.

Some Female Mummies.  
How would you American girls like to wear one suit of clothes for 3000 years? That has been the fate of the well preserved ladies of this Egyptian museum. The most of them are clad in fine gauze much like linen or silk, and in some cases this looks as fresh as when it was made. It was wrapped around their limbs after having been properly treated with spices and pitch, and it clings to them more tightly than the hobbie skirt of today. I noticed one queen with a necklace of beads and another who has a shawl around her head. A third lies at full length in her coffin with the mummy of her baby at her feet.

Another princess stands upright against the side of the wall. Her face is plated with gold, and her mummy clothes are embroidered. She is wrapped round and round with cloth, and one might wrap up a girl of today and make a similar bundle. Another of these mummy ladies has hair which appears to have been done up in curl papers, and, strange to me, the hair is as red as my own.

Gorgeous Coffins.  
Many of the mummy caskets are splendid. They are made of fine woods, painted inside and out with pictures describing the life of the owner. Some are covered with carvings, and some with heads which may have been likenesses of those who lay within. It costs much to die now. It must have cost more to die then. The expense of making a mummy was \$1200, and money was then worth 16 times what it is now. The caskets were more expensive than any of the coffins we have today, and they were incased in great sarcophagi of stone or wood, some single ones of which must have cost fortunes. In the Gizeh museum there is one room called the Hall of the Caskets. It covers, I judge, about one-fourth of an acre, and it is filled with coffins and caskets. There are enough sarcophagi in it to form water-tight troughs for the largest of the Chicago stockyards, and many of them have been cut out of solid blocks of red or gray granite, the sides being so smooth that you can see your face in them. Others are covered with hieroglyphics, and all are constructed with an art equal to the finest stonecutting of today.

How Mummies Were Made.  
I have asked the archeologists here as to how the Egyptians made the mummies which are now being dug from the earth. Their reply was that they were made in a similar manner to the mummies of the ancient Egyptians, who believed in the transmigration of souls. They thought that the spirit wandered about for several thousand years after death and then came back to the home it had upon earth. For this reason it was desirable to keep the body intact, and everyone looked to his mummification as his only chance of re-creation hereafter.

When the art of embalming began

no one knows, but it is supposed to date back to the time of the pyramids. We know that Joseph, when his father, Jacob, died down in Egypt, had him embalmed, and the Bible says it took 40 days to properly cure him. It also relates that when Joseph died, the Egyptians embalmed him and put him away in a coffin. Herodotus, who was one of the best travel writers of all time, describes how embalming was done and tells all about the making of mummies. He says the art was carried on by a special guild, whose members were appointed by the government and who had to work at fixed prices. The bodies were mummified in three different ways. In the first and most costly method, the brains were extracted through the nose by means of an iron probe, and the intestines were taken out through an incision made in the side. The intestines were then cleaned and washed in palm wine. They were covered with aromatic gum and set aside in jars. The cavity of the body was now filled with spices, including myrrh and cassia and other fragrant substances, and it was then sewn up. After this, the body was soaked in a solution of natron, a kind of carbonate of soda, being allowed to lie in it for a couple of months or more. It was then taken out and wrapped in fine linen so smeared over with gum that it stuck to the body, when the mummy was ready for burial.

The second process was cheaper, but it took about the same time. In this the brains were left in and the body was so treated in the solution that everything except the skin and bones was dissolved. There was a third method which consisted of cleaning the corpse and laying it down in salt for 70 days. The first process cost about \$1200, the second \$100 and the third considerably less.

Other authorities relate different methods of mummification. The most of the mummies discovered, however, have been preserved by means of gums of one kind or another, and by pitch and carbonate of soda. The mummies with gums are usually green in color and their skins look as though they were tanned. They break when they are unrolled. The mummies pickled with pitch are black and hard, and the features are preserved intact, and it is said that such mummies will last forever. In those preserved by soda, the skin is hard and rather loose and the hair falls off when it is touched. The pitch mummy usually keeps its hair and teeth.

Mummies of Children.  
There are mummies of children in this Egyptian museum. There are some also in London, but I know of none anywhere else. The children were embalmed for the same reason as the grown-ups, the parents believing that they could have no union with their little ones without they met them again after the resurrection in their original bodies. The faces of some of the children are gilded, and the pictures upon the bandages represent the child offering sacrifices to the gods. Above the feet may be the funeral boat showing the little child lying upon its bier, and upon other parts of the coffin are tiny little people who seem to be engaged in propelling the boat. This probably represents the ferry of the dead to its tomb in the mountains on the banks of the Nile. In other cases the caskets of the little ones are beautifully decorated and in some they are plated with gold.

The Book of the Dead.  
One of the most important records of the customs of the Pharaohs in regard to the dead has been taken away from Egypt. This is a papyrus manuscript which is now in the British museum. It is known as the Book of the Dead and contains 200 chapters. It is written in hieroglyphics, but many of the passages have been translated. According to it, every man was believed to consist of seven different parts, of which the actual body was only one. The others related to the soul and its transmigration, and it was believed that upon the preservation of the body depended the bringing together of these seven parts in the future. It was on this account that corpses were mummified, and for the same reason that they were hidden away in tombs under the desert and in the great pyramids which their owners believed would be inaccessible to the men of the future.

This Book of the Dead contains also some of the Egyptian ideals of right living, reminding one of the Psalm

which, according to Rouse's version, begins:

"That man hath perfect blessedness Who walketh not astray In counsel of ungodly men, Nor sitteth in the scorner's chair! But placeth his delight Upon God's law and meditates On that law day and night."

Immortality of the Egyptians.  
There is no doubt that the Egyptians believed in the immortality of the soul. They thought man would live again, and gave the soul the name of Ba, representing it in the form of a human-headed hawk. They had their own ideas of heaven and one of their pictures of the future state represents it as follows:

"In heaven the dead eat bread which never grows stale and drink wine which is never musty. They wear white apparel and sit upon thrones among the gods, who cluster around the tree of life near the lake in the field of peace. They wear the crowns which the gods give them, and no evil being or thing has any power to harm them in their new abode, where they will live with God forever."

According to one opinion, the Egyptian heaven was situated above the sky. It was separated from the earth by a great iron plate, to which lamps were fastened, these lamps being the stars. According to another theory, the heaven was in the delta, or in one of the oases, and a third idea was that the sky was in the form of a cow, and another in that of a woman, the legs of the cow and head and feet of the woman being the cardinal points.

As to creation, that began with the rising of the sun, which was brought about by a god, and men and women came from the tears which dropped from the eyes of that god. This is somewhat better than the old Chinese tradition of the world's making. According to the latter, the god Pwanku chiselled out the universe and was 18,000 years on the job. At the end of that time he died, and his head turned into mountains, his breath became wind and his voice the thunder. From his flesh came the fields, from his beard the stars and from his skin and hair all minerals originated. From his teeth and bones the rain is his sweat, and lastly, man was created from the insects which stuck to his body.

The Origin of the Golden Calf.  
In examining these gods of the ancient Egyptians as shown on the papyrus which came from the tombs it is easy to see where the Israelites got their idea of the golden calf. Their oppressors from whom they were fleeing resembled certain animals. They looked upon hawks as emblems of the sun, moon and stars, and at their death often turned them to mummies. The cat was sacred to one of their gods. They had also statues of cows, and the cow was considered emblematic of Hathor, the goddess of beauty, love and joy. You may see her statues scattered up and down the Nile valley. Sometimes she is depicted as a cow, and at others as a woman wearing the cow horns with the sun disk between them. There is a carving of Queen Cleopatra dressed up in that way.

In 1904 a remarkable cow goddess was excavated from the tomb of Deir-el-Bahri, not far from Thebes. I saw the place whence it came and talked to the men who dug it from the earth. The cow was of white limestone about four feet in height and perhaps six feet in length. It has a real tail, a black face, and its head is crowned with lotus flowers and lotus stalks hang down each side of its neck almost to the ground. There is a king kneeling under the cow, in the attitude of prayer. That statue was probably worshipped at the time the Israelites were working in the valley of the Nile, and it may have been from one like her that they modeled their calf of gold.

The Jewels of the Egyptians.  
And this brings me to the jewels of which that calf was made! If you will look up the Bible records in Exodus, you will see that Moses advised the Israelites that every man should borrow of his Egyptian neighbor an every woman of her neighbor jewels of silver and jewels of gold; and, a little farther on, it is stated that they

Nervous, Run Down People: Do you feel generally miserable, or suffering with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical, among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness, feeling fullness, or bloatedness after eating, or sense of "goneness," or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flashes, lassitude and throbbing, gurgling or rumbling sensation in bowels with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood, cold feet, pain and oppression in chest and back, pains around the loins, seking and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning, and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was going to happen? We can positively cure you in a short time. No charge for examination.

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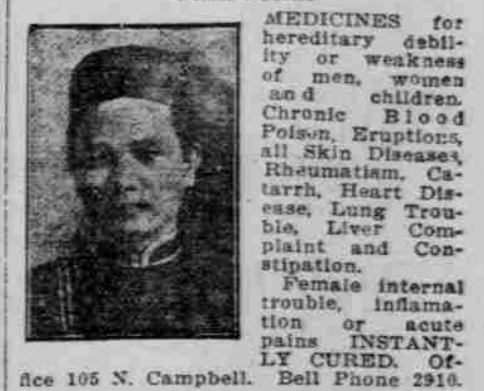
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delegation, owns a bank and an ice and electric light plant in Las Cruces, N. M.

Will P. LaPoint, a delegate from Las Cruces, N. M., publishes a newspaper half in English and half in Spanish, and wears a mustache that he values very highly.

Chas. Loomis, of the El Paso, Tex., delegation, once ran a train in Mexico, is a federal referee in bankruptcy at El Paso. He is also a first lieutenant in the Texas volunteer guard and head of the Boy Scout movement in Texas.

Wm. Mueller, a real estate man from El Paso, Tex., who rides in an auto at home, walked in wooden shoes and couldn't speak English 15 years ago when he settled in El Paso.

Mary C. Edwards, of El Paso, used to be the best ball player in the town. Now he sells lumber and wears his hat as much as possible to hide his bald spot.

O. H. Baum, who is here among the Texans, once ran a laundry as a conductor and now runs a laundry as an overall factory and a steam laundry.

## Woman's Nature

It is the nature of women to suffer uncomplainingly, the discomforts and fears that accompany the bearing of children. Motherhood is their crowning glory, and they brave its sufferings for the joy that children bring. No expectant mother need suffer, however, during the period of waiting, nor feel that she is in danger when baby comes. If Mother's Friend is used in preparation of the event. Mother's Friend relieves the pain and discomfort caused by the strain on the different ligaments, overcomes nausea by counteraction, prevents backache and numbness of limbs and soothes the inflammation of breast glands. Its regular use fits and prepares every portion of the mother's system for a proper and natural ending of the term, and it assures for her a quick and complete recovery. Mother's Friend is sold at drug stores. Write for free book for expectant mothers.

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